

# LABOR CLARION

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## A.F.L. Demands Wage Order Modification

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has called upon the Government to scrap the compulsory features of the new and drastic "job freezing" regulations issued by War Manpower Commissioner McNutt.

These regulations, Green insisted in a public statement, which appears elsewhere in this issue of the *LABOR CLARION*, would substitute "forced labor" for free labor in America.

McNutt's "job freeze order" tightened the wage squeeze on labor by forbidding 27,000,000 essential war workers to change jobs for higher pay.

### Jail Penalties Provided

The drastic regulations, providing penalties of as much as a year in jail for violations, carried out the directions of President Roosevelt's Executive Order intended to "hold the line" on wages and prices.

However, no effective action has as yet been taken by the Government to control food prices or to "roll them back" to September 15 levels in accordance with the President's directive.

### No Consultation with Labor

The job "freeze" regulations were issued without consultation with organized labor and without seeking the approval of the A.F.L. and C.I.O. A.F.L. leaders were assured by Economic Stabilization Director

Byrnes and McNutt that job seniority would be protected under the new regulations.

The "job freeze" order will bear most heavily on those engaged in thirty-five areas listed as essential by the War Manpower Commission in thirty-two "critical" labor shortage areas where the W.M.C. is seeking to stop pinning of labor by employers through offers of higher wages.

### Job Shifting

Henceforth, workers may take new jobs at higher pay only when the shift is from a non-essential to another non-essential job, or from non-essential to essential war work.

Job shifts for higher pay are forbidden when the change is from one essential job to another or from essential work to non-essential activity.

Exceptions are made in cases where local wage stabilization plans provide for such wage adjustments. There are 60 such plans in existence in "tight" labor areas.

### May Appeal to Commission

In "surplus" labor areas, employers and employees will have to appeal to the local Manpower Commission Director for permission to boost rates in exceptional cases.

The only broad exception permitted under the new regulations for the transfer of war workers to different jobs at higher pay is when such changes are con-

sidered by the W.M.C. to be "in the interest of the war effort."

### Example Cited by McNutt

At a press conference, McNutt explained that if a worker in Buffalo, for instance, wished to transfer to a job in Detroit, another critical labor area, in order to take a war job at \$1 an hour instead of the 85-cent rate he may have received in Buffalo, he would have to obtain a statement of availability or certificate of separation from the W.M.C. in Detroit or from the United States Employment Office in Detroit.

Similarly, if he wished to change to another job at higher pay in Buffalo, he would have to obtain such a certificate from the authorities in that city. Presumably, the W.M.C. would not approve such transfers.

### To Consult with Committee

Chairman McNutt stated in Washington last Monday that the War Manpower Commission's management-labor committee would be consulted on the advisability of adopting a nation-wide employment stabilization plan. This idea, McNutt told a press conference, was one of several that would be submitted to the committee for consideration as a means of amplifying McNutt's wage control order.

A nation-wide stabilization plan, McNutt said, would be one way of making good on his promise to permit transfers anywhere in the country.

## State Federation Report on Pending Legislative Measures

As the zero hour when the State Legislature will "stop the clock" approaches closer and closer, the emasculation of the Unemployment Insurance Act looms more dangerously as a dreadful possibility. The State Federation of Labor is increasing its fullest opposition to this threat and will continue to fight relentlessly and with all of its might to prevent such a disastrous occurrence from materializing. This was their report made from the Federation's headquarters Wednesday afternoon, and which report continued as follows:

Rolling up their sleeves for a last-ditch fight, representatives of the California State Federation of Labor are working hard to dam up the rushing tides of legislation calculated to engulf the Unemployment Insurance Act and drown the hopes of wage earners for continued protection against the evils of unemployment.

### Bills Rushed Through Committees

Meanwhile, Senate and Assembly bills which represent the worst efforts of labor-baiting opponents of social insurance are being rushed through the committees of both houses of the California Legislature at an alarming rate. Already passed by the Senate and up for consideration in the Assembly are: S. B. 856 (by Dillinger), which penalizes voluntary "quits" by depriving the worker of benefits; S. B. 999 (Ward and Powers), wiping out all previous wage credits of workers who refuse "suitable employment" even if only for a few days' work; and S. B. 1003, expanding the definition of "agricultural labor" excluded from protection so as to knock out over 100,000 employees now covered by the Act, most of whom work in plants employing more than 100 workers.

One step closer to the statute books are both Senate bills authored by Ward and Powers which have passed the Senate and have received a "do pass" recommendation from the Assembly committee on

finance and insurance despite the vigorous opposition of the Federation's spokesmen. These oppressive measures include S. B. 994, requiring the worker either to accept a job which he is physically, mentally, or otherwise incapable of taking, or forfeit his benefit rights on the grounds that he has refused "suitable employment"; S. B. 998, cutting down the rights of 175,000 seasonal workers; and S. B. 1026, excluding 7000 hospital employees from the protection of the Act and providing an entering wedge for further exclusion.

### Powerful Libby at Work

Powerful lobbyists are using all their power and influence to push through bills which will serve to kill many vital features of the present law, making it more difficult if not impossible for an unemployed worker to get benefits, and easier for an employer to effect his obligation.

Already passed by the Assembly are: A. B. 1226,

setting up a complicated system of claims and appeals so as to make it tough to get benefits, and threatening applicants with punishment for perjury if they fail to give correct information, although the information required consists of legal conclusions which only an attorney would be qualified to make; A. B. 1334 (by Kraft, Debs, Stream and Potter), which is the same as S. B. 1026 already discussed; A. B. 1802, repealing summary procedure by which delinquent contributions may be recovered from employers without resorting to long-drawn-out court fights; and A. B. 1232 (by Johnson *et al*), reducing the interest on delinquent payments of contribution by employers. This last bill was amended, however, at the suggestion of the Federation's representatives, so as to impose a fine on employers who fail to report wage items, thereby holding up the payment of workers' benefits.

### Reduces Employer Contributions

Out from the Assembly committee on finance and insurance with a recommendation that it be passed when it comes up for a final reading during the next few days is A. B. 1234 (by McCollister *et al*), which would lead to lower contributions by employers by reducing charges against their account and improving their "merit" ratings as a result.

### Enemy Strategy

While each of these bills is worthy of the scathing condemnation of any legislature claiming to be a friend of the wage earners of this State, when they are taken together it becomes apparent that these proposals are part of a whole strategy to deprive California workers of their benefit rights. This plot will succeed unless the full weight of labor's opposition is brought to bear upon those who can still act in time to rescue the Unemployment Insurance program from swift and certain assassination.

## Asks Emergency Meet of Officials of A.F.L. Unions

Sal B. Hoffmann, president of the Upholsterers' International Union, has called upon President William Green of the American Federation of Labor to summon an immediate emergency conference of all international officers of A.F.L. affiliates, to formulate a program to meet the "menaces" that threaten American workers today, and to insure continued war production through adequate and proper enlistment of management and finance.

Hoffman urged this action in a telegram pledging the union's support of the A.F.L. protests against the McNutt "freeze labor" order and the action of the National War Labor Board interpreting President Roosevelt's "hold-the-line" order.



## Conference of Coast Metal Trades Unions

(By Press Service of Pacific Coast Metal Trades District Councils)

West Coast solidarity was expressed in unmistakable terms at the coastwise A.F.L. Metal Trades Conference held in Portland last week. More than 200 delegates representing hundreds of thousands of workers in key industries of the vital Pacific Coast industrial area went on record as favoring the suspension of the National Labor Relations Act for the period of the war. This action was taken at the conclusion of a two-day executive session conference held in the Portland Labor Temple.

### Prominent Labor Officials Present

In addition to delegates representing A.F.L. metal tradesmen were officials of the three West Coast State Federations of Labor, representatives of the international unions and central labor councils of major West Coast cities. On the platform with John P. Frey, president of the A.F.L. Metal Trades Department, were John McGowan, president of the International Boilermakers' Union (A.F.L.); P. E. Nickerson, Edward P. Vandeleur and James Taylor representing, respectively, the state federations of Oregon, California and Washington, and numerous other officials of A.F.L. international unions.

Anthony Ballerini of San Francisco and J. W. Buzzell of Los Angeles worked with Ed Weston and Mike Stafford, officials of the Pacific Coast Metal Trades District Council, to attend to the many details of the meeting.

It was probably the most important labor gathering ever to take place on the Pacific Coast.

### Address by John P. Frey

John P. Frey, plucky and aggressive in spite of illness and an exhausting two days of testimony at the Kaiser hearing, opened the proceedings with a detailed analysis of the N.L.R.B.-C.I.O. situation to date. "This is a battle that we propose to win," he said. "And I want that to go into the record." Brother Frey put into the record also the damning statements of N.L.R.B. big shots and the would-be commissars of the C.I.O.

[EDITOR'S NOTE—A summary of the address made by President Frey appears elsewhere in this issue of the LABOR CLARION.]

Following President Frey's address, Attorney Charles J. Janigan of San Francisco, fresh from the N.L.R.B. examiner's hearing on the Kaiser shipyard case, explained in some detail the actual working of the Wagner Act in relation to various points raised by President Frey.

At the conclusion of this enlightening interval President McGowan of the Boilermakers' Interna-

tional Union took the floor to make a forceful and carefully prepared presentation of the conference position in favor of making the Wagner Act inoperative for the duration. Attention was called to the scope of N.L.R.B.-C.I.O. operations and pointing out possible consequences.

Brother McGowan was a dynamo of indignation. "We have been betrayed," he declared, "after faithfully living up to every responsibility, by the governmental agencies we had every reason to assume would be on our side in the work we are doing to win this war! If I knew of any other way I would not be in favor of the action specified in the resolution we are about to sign. This is done with the hope in mind that no such thing as a suspension of work in the shipyards will be necessary in order to enforce justice. Surely those who represent us in Washington, D. C., will realize the gravity of the situation and suspend operations of the N.L.R.B. for the duration of the war."

### Resolutions Demand Action

The conference finished its work by passing strongly worded resolutions. One was sent to members of the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives urging the suspension of the National Labor Relations Act for the duration. The other resolution, equally strong, was sent to President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, insisting on a vigorous stand by the national office in support of the crusade launched in Portland.

(Among others in attendance at the conference from San Francisco were John Byrnes of the Production Machine Operators; Thomas White, Warehousemen No. 860; Ed. Rainbow and Otto Becker, Boilermakers; Rhue Brown, Shipfitters; Victor Swanson, Operating Engineers; George Sanfacon, Shipwrights; George Hayward, Marine Waysmen; Robert Druhan, Steamfitters, and George Johns, special representative sent by the San Francisco Labor Council. Delegate Johns is expected to make his report on the conference at tonight's meeting of the Labor Council.)

### WORKERS' PLANE TOUGH ON NAZIS

Forced to crash-land after shooting down six Nazi planes and participating in thirteen bombing missions, "New York Central," a B-26 Marauder bomber, given to the Army by New York Central railroad employees, will continue in service behind the lines in North Africa, the War Department has been informed. The bomber was purchased with \$250,000 contributed by the railroad workers. It went into combat on January 2, 1943, and completed its thirteenth and last mission on February 24.

### BREWERY WORKERS IN ARMED FORCES

The International Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America has 3153 members in the armed services of the United States. One of its members, Patrick Tuohy of Boston, has five sons in the armed services and two daughters in semi-military service.

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## States Liberalize Laws On Workers' Insurance

Labor laws governing workmen's compensation for occupational injuries and diseases, and unemployment benefits, have been liberalized by many of the State Legislatures meeting this year.

The wartime rise in costs of living and in wage rates influenced the trend, though moves to increase unemployment compensation were afoot in some states before the war began, the American Public Welfare Association says.

### For Civilian Defense Workers

Significant in connection with the war, the Association said, are bills proposed in several states to include civilian defense workers under workmen's compensation laws, so, for example, an auxiliary policeman injured on duty may receive aid; and proposals to hold unemployment benefit "credits" for men in the armed services so they can be drawn on after the war.

At least half the legislatures meeting this year have enacted or are considering bills to adjust upward the percentage of salary base on which workmen's compensation is paid, to increase minimum and maximum weekly benefit limits or remove limits altogether, or to increase allotments for medical care.

### Indiana Liberalizes Plan

Example of one of the more liberal plans is the newly enacted Indiana law, which increased maximum weekly benefits from \$16.50 to \$18.20, total maximum benefits from \$5000 to \$5500 and burial allowance from \$150 to \$165. Indiana also liberalized its occupational disease compensation law along the same lines.

Other states increasing workmen's compensation benefits are South Dakota, which raised death benefits to a limit of \$5000 and medical and surgical expense allowances from \$100 to \$200; and Arizona, which established a state occupational disease compensation system providing compensation for approximately thirty-five diseases.

### Unemployment Compensation

Some of the 1943 proposals for changes in unemployment compensation, which is based on employer and employee contributions and the amount of employee earnings for the previous year, are these:

New York—to increase minimum benefits from \$7 to \$9 a week and lengthen benefit period from 20 to 26 weeks; Massachusetts—to raise weekly minimum benefits to \$10 and maximum to \$20, extending payments from 20 to 26 weeks.

Among changes already enacted are those of New Hampshire extending the duration of benefits to 18 weeks and maximum weekly compensation to \$18, as long as the employers' reserve fund remains over \$8,000,000; of West Virginia, increasing benefits 20 per cent; and of Indiana, increasing maximum benefits from \$16 for 16 weeks to \$20 for 20 weeks.

Many proposals pending would widen coverage of unemployment compensation benefits. Six states have enacted laws protecting benefit rights of men in the armed forces, and similar proposals are pending in other states.

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## More Money for Few Farm Workers Than the Entire Budget Requested for U. S. Department of Labor

"Another 'Gravy Train' is just about to pull out from Washington, headed for the rural sections, and indications are that there will be plenty of petty political hangers-on aboard."

Thus declared Albert N. Dennis on a broadcast of his "Labor News Review" radio program, over Station WTOP of the Columbia system, in referring to the appropriation to get emergency farm help.

"After whacking off a large portion of the original proposed amount," Dennis declared, "Congress appears to have been induced—or should I say seduced?—to appropriate over \$26,000,000, to recruit, 'train' (?), transport and allocate emergency farm workers.

### Declares Situation Ridiculous

"The whole situation is regarded as nothing short of ridiculous. In the first place, the matter of providing ample farm help is held to be a comparatively simple matter. It could easily be done on a strictly voluntary basis, according to competent observers, with a necessary expenditure of about 1/26th of the amount being appropriated—that is to say, for about one million, instead of twenty-six million dollars.

"Just how ridiculous this situation is may be realized better when it is compared with the total budget for all divisions of the U. S. Department of Labor for the current fiscal year. That total budget is around \$3,000,000 less than is being appropriated merely to recruit a few farm hands for emergency service only.

### Labor Department Budget

"The total Department of Labor budget for this fiscal year is only \$23,935,000," Dennis revealed. "Of that amount, about twelve million dollars is earmarked for use as grants to the various states, leaving around \$13,000,000 for all work of all the various important divisions of the Department of Labor—or approximately half of the amount being appropriated to furnish emergency farm help.

"That \$26,000,000 will afford a lot of 'gravy' for the faithful; and, unfortunately, it will enable a lot of able-bodied men to avoid service in the armed forces,

where they would unquestionably be of far greater value in the prosecution of the war.

### Politicians to Benefit

"Besides that, of course, many people believe that the Department of Labor should be the agency to recruit *all* labor, instead of farming it out, piecemeal, to political setups. But it appears the 'Gravy Train' does not stop at the Department of Labor, which is recognized as an efficient organization, doing a necessary work well, with a minimum of expenditure. Cheap politicians don't want that kind of service; they prefer the 'Gravy Train,' where the pickin's are good and the harvest rich in political aggrandizement.

"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, another efficient group, part of the Department of Agriculture, says the farm labor supply is now 'steady,' but employment continues at a low level.

"As of the first of April, there were 9,308,000 persons working on America's farms. But only 1,875,000 of them were 'hired hands,' the others being farm operators, 'croppers' and members of their families, who do not work for wages.

### No "Gravy" for Farm Labor

"Monthly farm wage rates on April 1 were at the highest levels on record. Indeed, wage rates for farm hands, including board, now averages all the way to \$56.84 a month! But there's no 'Gravy Train' for the farm hands, either."

Also in reference to the above-mentioned appropriation, H. L. Mitchell, general secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, points out that the legislation provides that no part of the funds shall be used to establish minimum standards of housing, wages or other conditions of employment for agricultural workers except for those imported from foreign countries to work on the farms of the United States. This provision, Mitchell declares, constitutes outright discrimination against United States citizens, and will undermine the morale of agricultural labor.

## N. Y. Communist Meeting—Have New Theme This Time

The following, in reference to a Communist meeting to be held in New York City next Sunday, was contained in a Scripps-Howard news story this week:

As part of a plan to stage nation-wide May Day rallies pressing for an immediate invasion of Europe, the American Communists have succeeded in lining up a group of notables to address their 1943 demonstration at Yankee Stadium on May 2.

Mayor La Guardia heads the speakers for the affair, which is being billed as a "labor unity and victory rally."

### No Labor Sponsorship

Meanwhile David Dubinsky, the most powerful leader in the American Labor party, of which the Mayor is a member, denounced the rally as "completely organized, dominated and controlled by the Communist party." He said his own union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers (A.F.L.), would not participate.

And the New York State C.I.O. Council announced it had not been invited to the rally and had not indorsed it. No A.F.L. unions have given their indorsement.

### Announced As Speakers

Other non-Communists who agreed to speak are U. S. Senator Claude E. Pepper of Florida, Margaret Bondfield, former British Minister of Labor, and Alberg Guigui, a representative of General De Gaulle's "Fighting French," who is to fly to New York from London for the rally. The Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Wei Tao-Ming, was also announced as a speaker.

Even Grover Whalen, whose police cracked many a Communist's head while he was New York police commissioner, had given his indorsement of the rally as the city's C.D.V.O. director, although he has since announced that he will not attend.

### British Caught in Trap?

The New York *World-Telegram* disclosed that the rally was being organized by the same Communist trade-unionists who staged the party's Union Square May Day demonstrations in five previous years. Their last rally, in 1941, was devoted to attacking this country's defense efforts and excoriating Great Britain and Winston Churchill.

The British Information Services, a branch of the British propaganda ministry in New York, had arranged for Miss Bondfield's appearance. On learning of the rally's Communist sponsorship, the British Information Services promptly issued a statement that it had simply supplied a speaker but that this action should not be taken as "indicating support for any particular party."

### A POWERFUL LANGUAGE

Mrs. Jones (at seashore): "My husband writes that he's feeling good, business is good and he loves me." Mrs. Smith: "All on that little scrap of paper?" Mrs. Jones: "Yes; it's a check for \$100."

## W.L.B. Seeks to Recover Power Over Wage Scales

The War Labor Board adopted and sent to Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes last Tuesday a memorandum setting forth that there is a need for at least a partial restoration of the board's authority to remedy wage inequalities.

The adoption came on a 7 to 4 vote, with the employer members dissenting, and the four public members and three labor members approving. One C.I.O. member, John Brophy, refrained from voting.

The board refused to make the document public immediately on the ground that Byrnes had not had an opportunity to study it and because there was a possibility of negotiations and modifications before an acceptable formula for dealing with inequalities was worked out.

According to a press dispatch, "an informed source said one proposal calls for a regional determination of the most representative range of wages for the various classifications of employment and permits upward adjustments to those levels rather than to the highest rates for a given occupation in each area or industry."

## New Proposal on Train Crew Law

The Senate labor committee last Tuesday side-tracked the Assembly-approved Waters bill suspending California's full train crew law, and substituted a bill providing for railroad companies to prove to the State Railroad Commission that shipments of vital war material are being delayed because of present alleged restrictions.

The bill by Assemblyman Waters of Los Angeles had passed the Assembly. It would have suspended the "full train crew law" for the duration.

The Senate measure, by Senator Biggar of Covelo, does not suspend the act and it puts the burden of proof on the carriers.

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## Fine for Boycotting—and How!

Every day in every way the freedom of the metropolitan press appears to be getting freedom-er and freedom-er. And now, to the uninitiated, seemingly the advertisers have been handed a mild warning in the form of a legal proceeding.

According to news reports, fifteen member stores of the New York Retail Dry Goods Association have been fined on a charge they violated the anti-trust laws by agreeing to withdraw their advertising from the New York Times unless that newspaper canceled an advertising rate increase which it had announced was to become effective in two months.

It was stated that no complaint against the stores had been filed by the Times, and that the action was initiated by the anti-trust division of the Justice Department. The information charged that a number of Times readers were misled by the lack of department store advertising in that newspaper to believe that a shortage of merchandise existed because of the war.

The defendant stores were fined \$5000 each, and given forty-eight hours to pay, after a *nolo contendere* plea, which plea means, according to our combined Latin and miscellaneous departments, "we make no defense—throw the book at us, but at least have a heart."

Not being in possession of a copy of the indictment, or information, on which the charges against the stores were based, and having only the news reports printed by the Times' "brothers" in the daily newspaper publishing field, the natives of Main Street and the cow counties are somewhat bewildered at the news story, and are anxious for more details. One congressman has evidenced curiosity also. But there has been no follow-up explanation, or editorial reverberations—such as undoubtedly would have occurred had a labor union been the "guilty party."

Haunting curiosity impels a few questions, and in the hope of gaining some legal advice without payment of the customary fee. Are the New York department stores compelled to advertise in the Times, or any other newspaper? If one store, for any reason or no reason, can refuse to advertise may it invite others to join with it in such refusal? Do business establishments have the same freedom as other groups are presumed to have in bestowing or withholding patronage? Did these stores use any other newspaper or advertising means for conveying information to the (evidently dumb) New Yorkers that there was "no shortage of merchandise?" If newspapers are engaged in interstate commerce, and thus subject to the national anti-trust laws, should not their advertising rates be made subject to approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission?

Anyhow, the department stores each came through with the five thousand bucks for conspiring to boycott the Times. But three of the stores—Macy's, Gimbel's and Saks—issued a statement in which they declared, in substance, that except for the purpose of the court pleading the stores did not admit

any illegal act; that they believed the court "proceeding was an extension of the interpretation of the Sherman Act to fields heretofore not deemed to be within its purview, and that rather than contest the proceeding with the attendant expenditure of time and effort it was deemed advisable to offer the *nolo contendere* plea.

There was some mention in the news report of a controversy, between Mayor LaGuardia and the retail groups on a proposal to increase the city sales tax—which might place the matter in the realm of a local political fight that only the residents of the metropolis could interpret. But after pondering the whole story, with the bare outline as presented in the news reports, the average "outlander" can only come to the conclusion that every day in every way things are getting curious-er and curious-er—and in more ways than one.

## Where the Money Goes

What happened to our record national income last year? How much did we spend? How much did we save? What income group spent most? What income group saved most?

These and other questions are answered in a booklet on "Your Part in the War," published by the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth street, N.W., Washington, D. C., which quotes at length from a statistical study by the research staff of the O.P.A.

Key fact of the study is that one-fourth of the families and individuals in the high income groups received about \$17,000,000,000 more than all the people in the lower-income groups.

The facts on savings, according to income group, are also interesting. The charts, based upon O.P.A. figures, show that families and individuals in various income groups saved money through savings accounts, War Bonds, payment of debts, purchase and payment on a house, life insurance, and similar financial transactions. These figures are averages:

Income Group	Per Cent of Saving to Income
\$10,000 and over.....	47.4
\$5000 - \$10,000.....	35.2
\$3000 - \$5000.....	24.7
\$1500 - \$3000.....	15.8
\$1500 and under.....	2

## The Bermuda Conference

(By RAYMOND LONERGAN, in "Labor")

The late Will Rogers once said: "Uncle Sam never lost a war and never won a conference." People laughed, but there was more truth than humor in the remark.

At this moment, one of these famous international conferences is in session in Bermuda. It is supposed to find an answer to the question: "How can the United Nations take care of millions—perhaps five million—refugees from nations now under the heel of Hitler?"

There is a strong movement in this country to answer: "Leave it to big-hearted Uncle Sam."

Secretary of State Cordell Hull appears to take a sane view of the matter. He says that all Americans would like to do something for these refugees, but that we have immigration laws which must be obeyed until they are changed by Congress.

We have already admitted between 500,000 and 1,000,000 refugees. Some of the cases are extremely deserving, but some are not.

As we have pointed out in this column, those who have money were able to buy their way into this country.

Most of those who are seeking admission now are not so well off financially. Probably their friends will take care of their immediate needs, but eventually their presence here may constitute a considerable problem.

Politically, the issue is full of "dynamite." The American people have very definite views on the subject of immigration. The Administration which disregards those views will find itself in difficulty. Mr. Hull probably had that in mind when he said that anything we may do must conform to our laws.

## On "Substandard Living"

From Headquarters of the California State Federation of Labor

An impression seems to be current in reaction to the President's "Hold-the-Line" Order of April 8 which can prove disastrous to the labor movement unless second thought is applied. It is the attitude that a definition of "substandard living" by the War Labor Board will overcome the serious consequences flowing from the "wage-freeze" order. Supplementing this position is the opinion that by clearly establishing a high substandard level, an avenue will be opened for the adjustment of wage demands of which there are now thousands waiting to be deposited in the overflowing waste baskets of the board.

### Of Serious Importance

What this involves is of such serious importance to labor that it would be an inexcusable oversight, to say the least, if the Federation were to remain silent even though a program to meet this latest severe contingency is only in the process of being formulated. That this is not a vain and petulant protest but an effort to help clear the air becomes crystal clear when it is realized that the whole question of substandard living deals with minimum wages.

The labor movement is based on the sound and solid foundation of obtaining for labor its rightful share of the product it produces, based upon its productivity. Wage levels have been elevated for those workers who have seen the great advantages of organization to the point that the American standard of living has become the highest one throughout the world. No one can argue against the favorable wages being received by American workers. This was achieved by the ability of the American wage earners to train themselves in the various crafts, skilled and unskilled alike, and to produce on a scale as favorable as those existing anywhere in the world. Even today American labor has been able to far out-produce the slave labor under Hitler and similar Nazi set-ups. This is the greatest testimonial to the tremendous achievements obtained by American labor.

### A Useless Proceeding

Why, therefore, could there be any use in trying to work out a suitable minimum wage definition by the War Labor Board when the overwhelming majority of cases before it deal with wage inequalities and inequities, as well as legitimate wage increase demands based on labor's productive ability, the giganticly increased earnings of employers, and the skyrocketing cost of living, at a time when no effective control of prices is in sight? Furthermore, a substantial portion of these wage increase demands have already been concurred in by the employers involved.

To subscribe to a substandard of living formula would be at best to establish only a higher wage minimum, and it could become a prevalent wage and act like the law of gravity on union wages being paid at present by dragging them down to the established minimum wage. For those suffering substandard conditions and pay, a clearly and adequately established substandard living formula would help, but this would not begin to take care of the millions of wage earners who are asking for wage increases rightfully coming to them.

The California State Federation of Labor will do everything it possibly can to see that the legitimate wage demands now before the War Labor Board, and those to come, are handled so that the merit of their claims will be given consideration and not be choked by an unfair formula of prices. If prices could be controlled, then labor would be only too eager to continue its 100 per cent unconditional co-operation even at great sacrifices. Without price control, it is absolutely unfair to expect labor to assume the whole burden of the attempt to control inflation.

### SAN DIEGO'S UNION COMMITTEES

San Diego unions are on the beam when it comes to protecting themselves against price increases and informing their members on rationing regulations. Sixty union consumer committees have been formed in that city in the last two months.



# AFL Members' Statement on Wage Case

As previously reported upon in the *LABOR CLARION*, the National War Labor Board, in a unanimous decision, recently substituted a 2-cent wage increase for the 5½-cent raise which had been recommended by the board's own referee in a case involving 490 employees of the Atlas Cement Company in a Pennsylvania plant. The employees were members of a C.I.O. organization.

It was the first decision made by the board following promulgation of the presidential Executive Order relating to wages. In a special concurring opinion the A.F.L. members of the board explained their votes in the case, and as the subject is one of vital import, affecting the welfare of workers under the war conditions, the complete text of the A.F.L. members' opinion is here reproduced:

## Injustice of Literal Interpretation

"The American Federation of Labor Members of the National War Labor Board voted for the Directive Order in the Universal Atlas Cement Company case decided by the Board on April 13, 1943, because they are in full agreement with the Public and Industry Members of the Board that a literal interpretation of Executive Order No. 9328 of April 8, 1943, so limits the powers and jurisdiction of the National War Labor Board that no other Directive Order on wages could have been issued in the instant case. However, our vote in this case should not be interpreted to mean that we believe Executive Order No. 9328 is founded upon unquestionable assumptions. The fact is that we believe the Order is neither sound in construction nor workable in practice. To the contrary, we believe that a literal interpretation and application of the Order will work manifest injustices upon American labor and industry and be detrimental to the war effort.

"The American Federation of Labor Members agree that the opinion of Public Member Morse issued April 13, 1943, is based upon a correct interpretation and application of Executive Order 9328, as now written. However, this special concurring opinion is filed in order to set forth our views as to some of the undesirable consequences which flow from a literal application of Executive Order No. 9328 to the thousands of cases now pending before the National War Labor Board and to others which may arise in the future. The undersigned Labor Members believe that the following points are sufficiently important to warrant a clarification and a modification of Executive Order No. 9328 by Mr. Byrnes, Director of Economic Stabilization, and by the President:

## Will Urge Continued Co-operation

"1. Let it be understood that the American Federation of Labor Members of the War Labor Board will continue to urge our members to co-operate with the nation in the successful prosecution of the war. Labor has already demonstrated by its actions that it looks with favor upon the President's use of his broad war powers in maintaining industrial peace and in providing the machinery for the peaceful settlement of labor disputes in time of war. The Labor Members of the Board have always respected a majority vote and they intend to continue this policy—reserving the right, however, to register their dissent whenever they feel that a majority of the Board is in error.

"The American Federation of Labor Members of the Board think it most unfair and contrary to the war effort to issue an Executive Order such as No. 9328 which effectively discriminates against the equities accruing to workers in cases pending before the Board. This Executive Order 'freezes' gross inequities and manifest injustices; this principle is foreign to all concepts of American justice.

## Powers Are Restricted

"2. The vote of the American Federation of Labor Members in the Universal Atlas Cement Company case was not based upon acceptance of the principles enumerated in Executive Order No. 9328. Instead,

our position was predicated upon the realization that the strict language of the Order deprived the National War Labor Board of those wage principles by which the referee's award could have been granted in full. The National War Labor Board no longer has the right, power and jurisdiction to grant wage increases to eliminate gross inequities and to aid in the more effective prosecution of the war. Nevertheless, we wish to have the fact clearly understood that in our opinion the wage increase recommended by the referee is a deserved one which undoubtedly would have been granted by the War Labor Board except for Executive Order 9328.

## Stabilization Bodies Affected

"3. We disagree further with the Executive Order as now written because another of its undesirable effects is to bring practically to an end the operation of all the stabilization commissions and panels of the National War Labor Board which have been assigned the important task of stabilizing certain industries on either a national or a regional basis. We refer to such commissions and panels as the Shipbuilding Commission, Lumber Commission, Trucking Commission, Maritime Commission, Non-Ferrous Metals Commission, Building Trades' Wage Adjustment Board, and the Newspaper Industry Panel. All such standing commissions and panels of the Board have gone a long way in stabilizing the industries within their jurisdiction, both from the standpoint of wages and increased production. However, their job has not been completed and cannot be completed under a literal interpretation of Executive Order No. 9328 because—as pointed out in the Universal Atlas Cement Company case—the literal meaning of the Order effectively precludes further wage increases, except in accordance with the 'Little Steel' formula or the attempt to eliminate substandard wages.

## 17,000 Cases Pending

"4. There are approximately 17,000 cases now pending before the National War Labor Board or its regional boards and in almost all of these cases wage inequities are involved; there are many which support a finding that wage increases should be given in the interests of aiding in the war effort and to increase production. All Americans have a sense of fair play, and the American Federation of Labor Members of the Board believe that not only labor but people generally must agree that it was not fair to the tens of thousands of workers involved in the 17,000 cases for the Administration to change the rules under which these cases came to the Board. As Labor Members of the Board, we feel that full allowance should have been made for correcting gross inequities involved in the pending cases and that the Administration should have retained in the National War Labor Board the power to make such adjustments.

## No Apologies for Board's Record

"It is one agency that needs to make no apologies for its record; it deserves both the confidence and respect of the Administration. During the existence of the National War Labor Board production has reached new all-time highs while strikes have dropped to new all-time lows during a war. Executive Order No. 9328 has greatly weakened the Board as an effective instrumentality for maintaining industrial peace by taking away from it the power to grant wage increases to eliminate gross inequities and to aid in the more effective prosecution of the war.

## Serious Problems Will Arise

"5. There are many more serious problems which will arise from the Executive Order in its present form. It is only natural that the workers of the country will lose confidence in an Administration which penalizes them for the delays of the War Labor Board which was created by that Administration. The volume of work of the National War Labor Board has been so great that it has been impossible for the Board to keep up with its docket. Hence,

# Group Insurance Plan for Employees in Shipbuilding

To encourage all shipyards to participate in group life insurance programs for their workers, the Maritime Commission is prepared to approve a plan of group insurance for shipyard employees.

This plan is to be known as the "Maritime Commission Standard Plan of Contributory Group Insurance," and will be applicable to all shipyards working 100 per cent on Maritime Commission contracts. Under it, workers earning less than \$1.25 an hour may obtain coverage of \$2000, as well as health and accident benefits.

The commission's division of insurance has notified the shipyard managements that the commission is now prepared to approve the "standard plan" in which half of the employer's cost and a proper administration expense are made reimbursable items.

The expansion of the nation's shipbuilding program has, in many instances, caused the transfer of key men from their parent companies to shipyards, thus causing them to risk losing their group life insurance. Many of the newly established yards do not have a program for such insurance, although contributory insurance has long been in effect with most of the large employers.

## SPOKESMEN FOR LABOR

Reporting on greater labor participation in local price, rationing and rent control activities of the Office of Price Administration, Robert R. R. Brooks, director of the O.P.A. Labor Office, said that labor advisory committees have been formed within the past month in 80 of the 100 O.P.A. districts, and shortly will be completed in the remainder. The committees will meet with district managers to effect continuous co-operation between labor and O.P.A. in establishing procedures for the settlement of problems in which the point of view of labor is especially important.

## AN O.P.A. DISCOVERY

A survey of Baltimore retail shops by O.P.A. investigators recently revealed the following: Over half of all dealers are violating price and rationing regulations in one way or another. Overcharging of consumers is widespread, gouging ranging from 20 to as high as 100 per cent above legal prices. Profiteering is most prevalent in communities occupied largely by working men's families.

many cases stand on the Board's docket which were certified months and months ago. Many thousands of workers have been involved in other cases certified at the same time, but their cases were disposed of before April 8. The workers who have suffered for many months past because of unavoidable delays in the settlement of their cases by the National War Labor Board will be all the more embittered now if the Administration applies the Executive Order of April 8, 1943, without making any exception for pending cases.

## Will Government Fiat Prevail?

"6. What about future cases? Are we now to enter into a procedure which is in conflict with the tripartite process which Labor agreed to with the President when the War Labor Board was set up? Are they, on the contrary, to be settled by Government fiat? Labor considers this latter development a flagrant violation of the no-strike-no-lockout-all-disputes-to-be-settled-by-peaceful-means agreement of December 23, 1941. The agreement with the President was that all labor disputes would be settled for the duration of war by a tri-partite War Labor Board. Now we find that wage disputes involving gross inequities and manifest injustices apparently cannot be settled by the tri-partite War Labor Board in which labor, industry and the public have a vote."

[The above-quoted opinion was signed by George Meany, Matthew Woll, Robert J. Watt, Martin P. Durkin, Louis A. Lopez and Fred Hewitt.]



## Finalists Are Named in Contest for Royal Honors in Great War Bond Campaign of Elevator Operators

Last Tuesday night the preliminary round of the Elevator Operators and Starters' Union War Bond and Stamp "Queen" contest came to a most successful conclusion. Thirty-two contestants, representing San Francisco department stores and buildings have vied for one of the ten places in the finals. Only at the last moment did it become known who the ten winners would be—the contest has been that close throughout.

The ten finalists are all "in the money," so to speak, because they will win prizes, from \$5 in Stamps to \$50 in War Bonds.

### Widespread Support

Stanley G. Isaacs, secretary and business agent of the union and chairman and originator of the contest, stated that the contest was started solely to stimulate the sale of War Bonds and Stamps—and without a doubt that aim has been accomplished. The enthusiasm of the general public and the complete support of the unions of San Francisco, plus the co-operation of the A.W.V.S., the banks, the department stores and the buildings, have, together with the tremendous effort of each contestant, resulted in topping every goal that was set up.

The original goal was set at \$100,000, and in seven days that was surpassed, and today the girl elevator operators have been responsible for \$8,282,065 in sales of War Bonds and Stamps. This tremendous amount was raised because of the coverage of the city by managers and committees of each contestant (the latter all members of the union), who wanted to do their part and to have their favorite named "Queen."

### Careful Checking of Votes

Each vote slip has been checked thoroughly and only bonds or stamps purchased over the bond booth counters have been counted—Treasury bills, bonds of Series "B" and "C" were disqualified. The ten fortunate girls to come out on top in the preliminary round are:

1. Marie Drenchuk, 1 Powell street.
2. Rose Spencer, Mills Building.
3. Lois Briese, I. Magnin's.
4. Phyllis Kennedy, The White House.
5. Lucille Franz, Newhall Building.
6. Gertrude Syce, Hale Bros.
7. Beulah Lahman, 111 Sutter street.
8. Aldean Howard, Call Building.
9. Alice Donohue, 444 California street.
10. Maria Paisley, Golden Gate building.

### New Closing Date

The final round of the contest, originally slated to run until May 28, has been changed to end Saturday, May 15, at 2 p. m.—with the consent of all involved. And on May 15 at 8 p. m., at 109 Golden Gate avenue, the "Coronation of the Queen" will take place, with

the public being welcome. Plans for that evening have not as yet been concluded, but will be announced in the near future.

### Contestants Honored

Last Saturday evening all the contestants were honored at a banquet, held at El Jardin restaurant. Charles Hardy, vice-president of the Building Service Employees' International Union, made a special trip from Los Angeles to be present and pay honor to every girl in the contest. Robert Ettienne of the War Savings Staff of the Treasury Department was also in attendance and congratulated the Elevator Operators' Union and all of the contestants for the great job they are doing, recognizing that the efforts and energy expended are mainly for the stimulus of the sale of War Bonds and Stamps. Those girls who did not make the "first ten" summed up their feelings with the statement that even though they were not among the winners they had done their part for their country by their participation.

Another goal has been set by the finalists themselves, and that is that on May 15 they want to have been responsible for the sale of *Ten Million Dollars'* worth of War Bonds and Stamps.

## Civilian Defense Demonstration

Proof that the waters of San Francisco Bay would become broad avenues of safety for the population of the city in case of an ordered evacuation will be given next Sunday when the first full-scale waterborne evacuation test ever held on the Pacific Coast will occupy the attention of Civilian Defense volunteers in San Francisco.

While hundreds of various types of watercraft assemble at designated spots on the Marina, 1500 air raid wardens acting as "evacuees" will gather at assembly centers near the Marina, there to be registered, then guided to Yacht Harbor and Aquatic Park, where they will embark for points of safety.

This unusual test of civilian defense co-ordination will this year take the place of the annual aquatic celebration customarily held on May 2. The test will begin at 10 a. m. when the volunteer evacuees will assemble at the Marina junior high school and the Galileo high school. Here, in the role of evacuees, they will be interviewed by the registration officers of the Red Cross, so that complete information as to family, friends, place of residence and other essential information will be on permanent record. The evacuees then will be conducted to the waterfront. Here auxiliary police will take charge of placing the necessary number of persons on each craft, in accordance with its safe capacity. The boats will then sail for Pier 60.

Arriving at the point of debarkation, the evacuees will again be interviewed and supposedly assigned to new places of habitation. Various other problems will be posed for Red Cross workers, including evacuees reporting being separated from their families, and a lost child being found and restored to friends or family.

*Have you donated blood to the Blood Bank?*

## A Plea for War Workers

[The following article is by Damon Runyon, the well known King Newspaper Syndicate writer, whose stories are a feature in many daily newspapers throughout the country. The article recently appeared in his regular column.]

By DAMON RUNYON

Now let us consider the problem of the war workers after the war.

I am insisting on legislation to take care of the soldiers, but I think that post-war provision for the war workers is just as important, because we are going to have more of them than soldiers.

They will be out of jobs and out of money, because taxes and the cost of living preclude the possibility of them saving anything. I hope to see legislation adopted to give the soldiers and all other service men pay continuance for at least a year after discharge, and to see them given their former jobs back, but what of the war workers who will be knocked off the payrolls when the gunfire ceases and who will get no bonuses of any kind?

They will get some of the sympathy that attends the man in uniform, none of the admiration and praise, none of the benefits in after years in the form of pensions and medical attention, though I say to you that the war workers are just as surely soldiers in this war as the man in the front lines. Without the war workers the soldiers could not carry on the fighting.

Yet our war workers are the most abused class in the United States today. The shortcomings of a few have been magnified until many persons accept them as the faults of the many, though the record proves that our war workers as a whole have reached a production unsurpassed in the history of the world. Surely that could not have happened if all our workers were guilty of the sins attributed to them by their critics, either through ignorance or deliberate misrepresentation.

"Absenteeism," I believe, is one charge against the war workers that has been exaggerated by these persons into an evil far beyond the truth. I agree that there has been more of it than is absolutely necessary, and that it has been quite harmful in many respects, but the production record does not jibe with the magnitude of the "absenteeism" alleged by the severest critics of the war workers.

Service men get furloughs from their camps in the United States and even from the fighting fronts abroad because they are sick or tired, and there is no criticism of them and no reflection on the service as a whole, yet when the war workers who get just as tired and just as sick want a little rest they are berated as wrongdoers.

Millions of these war workers have left their homes and families behind them the same as the service men, to go long distances to take jobs and it is conceivable that they sometimes get as lonely and as homesick as any soldier in a foreign land. Others have taken their families with them only to find that their wives and children must live under the most frightful housing conditions.

The means of relaxation and amusement provided the soldiers is denied them in most places, though a few towns and factories endeavor to supply some entertainment for them. But in the main the war workers are so neglected and badly treated that most of the men would be glad to chuck their jobs and join the service.

I am aware that this is a picture slightly different from that which is fixed in the public mind, but I think it is a true one. The high wages you hear about are seldom discussed with reference to the deductions—taxes, rents, bonds, insurance, household expenses and doctors' bills and the like. The sum total left in the hands of the war worker is often not as great as that which remains to the man in the service.

Venerable disease has trebled in France since the Nazi occupation.



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## Workers Are Patriotic— But "Softies"? Never!

By PHILIP PEARL, in A.F.L. News Service

The workers of America are caught in a "squeeze" and naturally they are going to yell their heads off until they are released.

On the one hand, the President has, to all intents and purposes, frozen wages. Likewise, with Manpower Commissioner McNutt's help, he has frozen war workers to their present jobs.

But on the other hand, prices—particularly food prices—continue to soar to the skies, making it impossible for workers to meet the cost of living.

This ridiculous situation is the result of bureaucratic fumbling and experimentation with a matter of life or death importance. It cannot long be endured.

If the Government wants war workers to continue to produce the weapons of war in record quantities, if it wants to win the war in the shortest possible time, it must correct these mistakes.

### Compulsion Won't Work

You can't enslave a worker and make him see the imperative importance of winning a war to free the world. You can't tie a worker hand and foot with compulsory regulations and expect results from him.

No wonder protests against the new regulations are pouring in from all over the land. No wonder reports of reduced production are beginning to crop up.

It begins to look as though the Government has decided to abandon the voluntary system of co-operation, in favor of compulsory methods. We serve notice here and now that compulsion won't work in America.

We don't say that the Government has willingly or deliberately sought to freeze workers to their jobs and freeze their pay at the same time. We realize the fact that the leaders of our Government must have come to the conclusion that there is no other way out of the nation's economic fix before taking such drastic action.

What we do say is that the leaders of our Government have either been misinformed as to the facts or don't know the facts. Apparently they don't know the temper of American workers if they think these workers will passively submit to economic slavery.

### Rude Awakening Due

Perhaps some of our Government chiefs have been misled by the fact that the leaders of American labor have been eager to co-operate in all war programs thus far. They may think that the labor boys are a bunch of "softies" who will stand for anything. If so, they are due for a rude awakening.

Certainly labor has co-operated with the Government to the hilt. Certainly the workers of America have readily assumed heavy sacrifices in order to promote the war effort. But co-operation is not a one-way street. Sacrifices must not be discriminatory. If freezing is necessary to victory, then let everybody and everything be frozen, not labor alone.

### Look at the Record

Has everybody and everything been frozen? Not so we can notice it. Let's look at the record.

President Roosevelt imposed a limitation of \$25,000 on net incomes a year or so ago. Congress rushed to the rescue of the profiteers and high-salaried executives affected by the order and revoked the limitations. The President failed to veto this measure, so now those in the upper brackets are not at all frozen.

Take prices next. The Office of Price Administration is supposed to set ceiling prices for commodities. It has done so on a number of items. But these ceiling prices are set at the top figures and every

time a ceiling is announced a new scheme is figured out by industry to get around the limitation. Visit any retail store if you want proof. Prices for the most ordinary articles have broken through every ceiling.

### Serious Problem of the Workers

But it's not only a question of discrimination against labor. The situation is much more serious than that. The problem now is how a workingman can get along and make a living. The problem is how can he continue at his job when the Government imposes conditions which make it impossible for him to render the best service of which he is capable.

That is the immediate problem. But there is an even more fundamental question involved. That is whether workingmen are pawns of the State or free citizens. It seems to us that we are fighting a war over this issue. The Government itself has told us the issue in this war—or at least one of the issues—is free labor versus slave labor. On last Labor Day the war agencies of the Government adopted a slogan. It read: "Free Labor Will Win."

How, we ask, can free labor win if the freedom of American labor is destroyed in the process?

### Transport Federation in New Offices

New activities resulting from the tremendous expansion of the Allied Nations' shipping effort and the widening scope of the organizational work have compelled the American office of the International Transport Workers' Federation to move into larger headquarters. The new offices are at 5 Beekman street, New York City.

Extending through two floors, the new offices are shared by the Federation, the Belgian, Dutch, French and Polish seamen's organizations and the co-ordinating committee of the Allied Nations' Seamen's Unions which, in addition to the above groups, is composed of representatives of the British, Chinese, Danish, Greek, Norwegian, Swedish and Yugoslav seafarers' unions.

### Restaurant Workers Held "Essential" in L. A. Area

Approximately 20,000 employees in more than 6000 restaurants in southern California were affected this week in an order by the War Manpower Commission declaring them essential to the war effort. Five thousand workers in the cement industry also were declared essential by the W.M.C. All were declared still eligible for the draft, however.

H. R. Marnish, W.M.C. area director, said that special and luxury services would be eliminated. Fancy servings at restaurants will be halted. Grapefruit will no longer be served in cups of cracked ice and multicolored parfaits and other fancy desserts will be deleted from menus.

Bars, night clubs and entertainment spots were not affected by the order.

Directors of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company were charged in Jersey City recently with having paid themselves \$1,000,000 in bonuses in five years under an incentive plan which they adopted. The testimony was given by a certified public accountant, at a trial of a suit instituted by company stockholders.

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## Mexican Workers Arriving To Take Coast Farm Jobs

Mexican farm workers are arriving at the rate of 2000 a week for employment in Pacific Coast States, it was announced here this week by officials of the Farm Security Administration, the agency designated to carry out for the United States the international agreement for use of Mexico's manpower in food production.

A train carrying 750 men left Mexico City last Tuesday and is due in northern California Sunday or Monday. The workers will be distributed among various farming sections of Butte, Sutter, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Napa counties.

### The Movement to Date

This trainload will bring the number of workers brought across the border since the movement started last September to approximately 15,000.

Of this total the F.S.A. states some 2200 were repatriated, most of them from the first arrivals, when their work contracts ended at the close of the California beet season the first of the year. Others have been repatriated at their own requests. About 300 have left farm employment and are listed "missing." As fast as these are found by U. S. immigration officers they are returned to Mexico. Of the remaining 12,500 about 1500 are working in various Arizona crops, 400 are in the beet fields around Yakima, Wash., and the rest in California farm areas.

### Terms of Agreement

Under the terms of the international agreement the Mexican workers are paid the prevailing wage existing in the particular crop and area where their services are used. F.S.A. field reports indicate average earnings are about 65 cents an hour. Housing is furnished by employers but the men pay for their meals. The maximum board charge is \$1.50 a day. The workers are issued U. S. ration books when they sign up in Mexico City so that they fare on an equal dietary basis with citizens of this country. Most of the housing is on growers' properties but Farm Security farm labor centers are being used to house several hundred workers in Imperial and Kern counties and at Yuma, Ariz.

### A.F.L. WINS IN POLL

A National Labor Relations Board election at the plant of the Uchtorff Manufacturing Company, Davenport, Iowa, to choose a collective bargaining agent for production and maintenance employees resulted in 104 votes for the American Federation of Labor union to 40 against.

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## Run o' the Hook

By FRED E. HOLDERBY  
President of Typographical Union No. 21

A communication addressed to the manager of the San Francisco Publishers' Association, copies of which were sent to the five newspaper printing crafts unions, went forward from the Tenth Regional War Labor Board under date of April 22. This letter reads as follows:

"This is to notify you that your application No. 10-812 has been approved by the National War Labor Board as recommended by the Newspaper Panel."

The recommendation referred to is the unanimous approval on March 16 by the special panel set up by the national board to handle newspaper cases. This approval sets the effective date of the new agreement negotiated last December as of December 28, 1942, and means a \$3 weekly increase for all members of the allied crafts employed on daily newspapers. The simple average increase for the five allied trades of 8 cents an hour is 13.1 per cent over the average wage on January 1, 1941, the date referred to under the "Little Steel" formula which would deny increases in many instances of more than 15 per cent above the wage paid on that date.

Carl Ranft spent last week-end visiting relatives and friends in the Bay area while on furlough from the Kern County Airfield near Bakersfield. He had received notice that he had been transferred to a field near Colorado Springs, Colo., and will report for duty at his new station at the completion of his furlough. He is attached to a mobile printshop unit.

H. F. Snow, who has been employed at the State Office in Sacramento since January 6, returned to this jurisdiction on Friday of last week.

M. W. Dreyfuss, formerly of the Williams Printing Company, was stricken while on vacation in Santa Cruz, and on Tuesday of last week was forced to undergo an operation at Mount Zion hospital. At last report, early this week, he was still confined to bed, but was convalescing.

R. L. ("The Mighty Chief") Ready visited at headquarters this week after an absence of some months while on duty for Uncle Sam somewhere on some ocean.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Southern California Conference of Typographical Unions held in Los Angeles on April 18 it was decided to continue with the regular meetings, but because of wartime inconveniences all meetings will be held in Los Angeles for the duration, and potluck luncheons are planned because of dining problems.

Louis Schmidt of the *Daily News* chapel, who has been receiving treatment for some time at the U. S. Veterans Facility near Palo Alto, has been confined to quarters lately with a troublesome swelling of his left ankle, but hot applications have now reduced the swelling to almost normal.

J. L. Begon of the *Chronicle* makeup department writes from Camp Campbell, Kv., where he is now stationed. Jack left here some two months ago for the Kentucky camp after an extended furlough from the Presidio of Monterey. He is now attached to the 43rd Armored Regiment.

Ed Schmieder, son of E. H. Schmieder of the *Examiner* chapel, a student of San Francisco Junior College and *Examiner* office boy, left this week for the Farragut (Ida.) Navy Training Station.

### Woman's Auxiliary, No. 21—By Mable A. Skinner

Don't forget the dance to be held Saturday evening, May 8, at Red Men's building, 240 Golden Gate avenue. Orchestra, and refreshments. Come and bring your friends.

### Golf News—By Fred N. Leach

The first round of the Golf Association match play cup championship produced the following results: Cy Stright d. Kimbrough (def.); Jess Conaway d. Alston Teel 3-2; Ben Apte d. J. L. Bartlett (def.); Wayne Dye d. Luke Lansberry 4-3; Vic Lansberry d. LeRoy Foley (def.); Frank Smith d. R. W. Smith 4-3; Charles White d. Larry Ullo 2-1; Paul Gallagher d. Fred Leach 2-1; Art Linkous d. Jimmy Otis 5-4;

Ed Schmieder d. Jack Tappendorff 3-2; and O. R. MacDonald and E. M. Blackford battled it out to the 20th hole before reaching a decision, with MacDonald on the winning end.

In the medal play, Ron Cameron led the championship class with an 86-8-78, followed by Al Cantor with 95-15-80, then Ed Schmieder 96-15-81, and Vic Lansberry 93-10-83. The Class "A" boys had Charlie White on top with 93-17-76; then came Wayne Dye 95-19-76, Art Linkous 96-20-76, and Jess Conaway 98-20-78. Class "B" resulted: Frank Smith 96-23-73, Paul Gallagher and Earle Brown 109-30-79 (and in the toss, Paul took second place award, leaving Earle third), and Jack Tappendorff 107-24-83. Guest flight awards went to C. Boyle with a 94-18-76, and Art Crebassa (Percy's son) 108-30-78. The hole-in-one contest found Fred Leach's ball 9 feet from the pin, to win first award, Al Cantor 15 feet 2 inches, and Howard Watson 21 feet, 6 inches.

OFF THE FAIRWAY—Will wonders never cease? Here your correspondent went and got an award in a tournament and received three brand-new golf balls, and his answer right now to anyone who wants to borrow, buy, or even see one is a bold-face cap NO! . . . How time flies! Here's Alston Teel a father-in-law now. His only daughter was married on Easter Sunday afternoon to a young man of the U. S. Navy. We didn't get the groom's name, as Al was in a hurry to play his match to get home in time for the wedding. Congratulations to the newlyweds.

"It sure was an easy job," said young Jimmy Lansberry and Bob Smith, Jr., after they were assigned the job of measuring in the hole-in-one contest. They only had to measure five, but got themselves a steady job now, and solved the monthly puzzle of who is going to handle the tape at the hole-in-one hole. . . . Al Cantor's debut as a new, old member of the Association was quite profitable. He took second place in the hole-in-one contest and second place in his medal flight. . . . Something happened to Paul Gallagher's slice on Sunday and turned it into a hook—out of bounds on the 11th hole—and slap-bang into the windshield of a car parked where it shouldn't have been parked. . . . Had a call from Joe Chaudet the other day. Joe dropped in to say "Hello" and to pay for his 1943 Golf Association card. He expects to be drafted soon—as a matter of fact was warned to be ready for a call any day. Joe sends his best regards to all Association members.

In answer to requests as to that fancy word in the cross-word puzzle, it was "etuis"—look it up in your dictionary. . . . And speaking of cross-words, we bet Cyril Stright said a few when he read the ribbing he got in Monday's *Chronicle*. . . . Mark your calendar for the next tournament, to be held the last Sunday in May—the 30th.

## Alaska A.F.L. Unions Form Territorial Federation

The Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor was established at a convention, held recently in Juneau, consisting of representatives of central bodies and local organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The convention elected Frank Murphy acting general president, and Beatrice Murphy general secretary-treasurer. President Murphy appointed the following vice-presidents: Erik Larsen, Juneau; Albert Carlson, Sitka; Louise Weaver, Ketchikan; Bernice Gordon, Anchorage; Charles Skinner, Kodiak.

The general office of the Federation is at the A.F.L. hall, Juneau, Alaska.

### WOMEN TRANSPORT WORKERS

Gradually, more women are entering the transportation industry, declares Otto S. Beyer, director of the O.D.T. division of transport personnel. Greatest advancement in the employment of women has been in the trucking industry where an estimated 5000 additional women were added between July and November.

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## Vote on the Hobbs Bill by California Congressmen

Both Representatives Welch and Rolph of San Francisco voted *against* the Hobbs bill, recently passed by the House and now pending in the Senate. The measure, which in its present form is opposed by labor, would interfere with the legitimate activities of unions but is masquerading as a ban on "racketeering."

Representative Tolan of Oakland voted *for* the bill, and Representative Andersen of the San Mateo-Santa Clara district, though not voting, was "paired" *in favor* of the bill. Representative Carter of the Alameda-Contra Costa district was recorded as "Not Voting."

Other California members of the House shown in the roll-call as voting *against* the bill were Representatives Englebright, Ford, Holifield, J. Leroy Johnson (Solano-Sacramento-San Joaquin district), King and Rogers.

Representatives Elliott, Izac and Sheppard were recorded as "Not Voting," and Representative Outland had a "general pair."

The remainder of the twenty-three members of the California delegation—Representatives Costello, Gearhart (Fresno-Stanislaus district), Hinshaw, Ward Johnson, Lea (Marin-Sonoma-Mendocino district), Phillips, Poulson and Voorhis—voted *for* the bill.

A clarifying amendment which, if adopted, would have resulted in withdrawal of labor opposition to the measure, was defeated 126 to 167. There was no roll-call vote on the amendment. The votes of the California members as above given were on the final adoption of the bill.

## New Housing at Mare Island

For weeks, Navy Yard officials and workers have been waiting for the word "Finished" as they watched the speedy program of a new housing section in the Mare Island area.

These new units, unfurnished, are 2- and 3-bedroom houses, equipped with stoves, refrigerators and heaters. Rent rates are \$37.50 for the 2-bedroom; \$42.50 for the houses with 3 bedrooms. This rate includes utilities, medical service and hospitalization and are available to family men and only after 2 weeks of steady employment in the yard. However, dormitory rooms are always open to men, and will generally be, at \$4.10 weekly, when sharing a double room, or \$5.60 a week for a single dormitory room. Here, too, utilities and medical services are included in rent cost. For employees of the Yard who commute to work, new Navy gray buses bring workers from points as far as 60 miles from Vallejo.

It is stated that hundreds of laborers, hundreds of helpers and a thousand skilled workers in the shipyard trades have important posts awaiting them at the Navy Yard. Only men not now on war jobs should apply.

### PLAN FARM WORK FOR "C.O.'S"

Tentative plans to transfer to farm work some 2000 conscientious objectors now in Civilian Public Service Camps have been disclosed in Washington. The announcement came after repeated pleas from interested organizations that as many objectors as possible be relieved of the "C.C.C. type work" performed in the camps and placed in useful agricultural or hospital work to help ease the manpower situation. It has not been made clear whether the assignment to farm work will be compulsory, although federal authorities have indicated they disapprove the placement of men whose unwillingness to do the work would create personnel problems on the farms.

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## Denounces "Job Freeze" Regulations

Text of Statement by A.F.L. President William Green

The American Federation of Labor will seek a modification of the President's "Freeze Order" as set forth in Section 3 of Executive Order 9328 and the regulations for the enforcement of this order as issued by Chairman McNutt on April 16.

This conclusion was reached after a careful study of the scope, meaning and implications of the Executive Order and the prescribed enforcement regulations.

The rigidity of the regulations officially promulgated by Chairman McNutt of the War Manpower Commission establishes the fact that the President's Order relating to employment is truly all that job freezing implies.

We fear that the application of such a frozen, rigid, inflexible plan will seriously affect morale, lower individual efficiency and arouse resentment among the industrial workers of the nation.

An appraisal of the manpower situation indicates strongly that both the job freezing section of the President's Executive Order and the enforcement regulations issued by Chairman McNutt are uncalled for and unnecessary at the moment. Surely such an assault upon the exercise of freedom by working men and women and of their right to sell their labor under the most ad-

vantageous conditions and to exercise all their rights under our free enterprise system, could well be postponed until no other solution was possible. The right of an individual to seek employment, to fight for and secure for himself decent wages, to render service under the most advantageous and satisfactory conditions, is inherent and fundamental in the American way of life.

All of these rights should be preserved and protected in order to influence the workers of the nation to "hold the line" and to "voluntarily and willingly serve to the limit of their ability and endurance" in order to win the war. They can do this if they are permitted to enjoy the benefits of free labor rather than to be reduced to the status of forced labor.

The penalties provided for in the regulations prescribed by Chairman McNutt are tremendously offensive, drastic and represent "a character of punishment which in no way fits the crime."

It is our deliberate judgment that both the President's Executive Order and the enforcement regulations issued by Chairman McNutt should be changed and modified so as to make them reasonably acceptable and satisfactory to the workers of the nation.

## Impressions of U. S. Visit By Chilean Labor Official

The widespread interest in Latin America on the part of the people of this country made a profound impression upon Bernardo Ibanez, the head of Chile's labor movement, he relates in the current *American Federationist*, official monthly magazine of the A.F.L.

Senor Ibanez, secretary-general of the Chilean Federation of Labor, visited the United States in March as the guest of the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. In the *Federationist* he tells the impressions he gathered during the trip.

"Statesmen, educators and journalists, labor leaders and workmen are all concerned with the fate and life of our Hemisphere," Ibanez writes. "Nowhere does one find a superficial, selfish or insincere attitude toward Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba or our other countries. Their interest in our welfare is impartial and sincere."

Senor Ibanez suggests in his article that inter-American solidarity "ought to begin by means of effective unity of thought and action on the part of the organized workers." What is needed, he says, is "a closer co-operation among our trade union organizations, without attempts at uniformity but with the idea of serving the highest and best interests of the working classes of the Hemisphere."

### PRESIDENT INDORSES MUSIC WEEK

Music builds morale, and inspires our fighting men, says President Roosevelt in a letter received by the National and Inter-American Music Week Committee, in which he warmly indorses the observance. Music Week always begins the first Sunday in May, and falls this year May 2-9. The 1943 observance will be the twentieth annual.

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## State Legislatures Defeat Many Anti-Labor Measures

Of the flood of anti-labor bills which were thrown into state legislative hoppers, only a few have survived.

So-called "anti-violence" bills, virtually outlawing the right of labor unions to picket and strike, were defeated in six states—Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee. They were patterned after the Texas statute of 1941, sponsored by Senator O'Daniel of that state.

In other states, measures restricting labor's activities by regulating the internal affairs of trade unions were also beaten, these including Indiana, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Arkansas is the only state which this year adopted an "anti-violence" law. Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Texas and South Dakota enacted measures requiring registration of union information and setting up restrictions on striking and picketing.

### LIQUOR TAX FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

A 4 per cent tax on distilled liquors and wines will pay for school lunch programs sponsored by the Utah State Board of Education. The Legislature enacted the tax law this year. Distribution of alcoholic beverages is a state monopoly in Utah.

## Mailer Notes

By LEROY C. SMITH

The War Labor Board at Washington last week approved the \$3-per-week increase so expeditiously, and at a nominal cost, negotiated by the five printing trade crafts acting jointly with a like committee representing the San Francisco newspaper publishers. The increase was included in paychecks for the week ending April 25. Also, back pay as of December 28, 1942, will be included in paychecks for the week ending May 4. Both parties to the above agreement are to be felicitated on having "blazed a new trail" in the negotiation of wage scales—and one which, from all indications, is a far more satisfactory method of negotiation of wage scales than by each craft acting separately or going through the grist mill of long-drawn-out, costly and, frequently, unsatisfactory arbitration methods.

George Murray is enjoying his furlough from the Flying Air Corps of the Army by "hitting the sub line" for a diversion. George, in past few years, was a member of the mounted traffic squad of the local police department, in which he made a good record as an officer chasing violators of traffic laws. He returns to active duty as a member of the Flying Corps on June 1, being stationed at Tucson, Ariz.

The many friends of George Spooner, veteran member of the local Printing Pressmen's Union, will regret to learn of his recently having suffered a stroke, and which has been followed by his resignation as president of the Allied Printing Trades Council.

Apparently, the frequently turbulent political waters of mailerdom are as placid, both east and west of the Rockies, as the proverbial mill pond. With the draft into military service of many of the mailer boys, others working at the trade are so busily engaged working a six- and seven-day week, with "o.t.," that they have relegated politics to the well known shelf. Neither have our friends of the M.T.D.U. voiced any reaction concerning the "modest" request of the representatives of that organization being willing to petition the court for a dissolution of the "mailer injunction," provided the executive council of the I.T.U. would sanction approval of plunking up a cool \$250,000 or place five mailer representatives on the I.T.U. pay roll. The executive council unanimously turned down the ridiculous "peace settlement" offers of the alleged "leaders," or mailer "kings," of the M.T.D.U.

"It is far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."—*The War Cry*.

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## S. F. Labor Council

Secretary's Office and Headquarters:  
Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street (Room 214)  
Headquarters Phone Market 6304

The Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m., at the Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committee meets every Monday, at 8 p. m. The Organizing Committee meets every Friday, at 7:30 p. m. The Union Label Section meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:30 p. m.

### Synopsis of Meeting Held Friday, April 23, 1943.

Meeting called to order at 8 p. m. by Vice-President Haggerty.

**Roll Call of Officers**—All present with the exception of President Shelley, who was excused.

The Chairman announced that there was not a quorum present, owing to the holy day, Good Friday.

The bills were ordered paid, and a motion was made and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN A. O'CONNELL, Secretary.

### Local Unions Buy War Bonds

Among subscriptions from San Francisco union organizations reported this week by the local war finance committee of the Treasury Department in the Second War Loan drive were the following:

Production Machine Operators No. 1327, \$5000; Newspaper and Periodical Drivers and Helpers No. 921, \$500, and Cleaning and Dye House Workers No. 7, \$370.

The Treasury Department's committee stated that union officials and members have been wholeheartedly behind the drive, now in the closing week, and that the strong support of labor funds aided in filling the Government coffers in the \$13,000,000,000 campaign to provide the materiel required by the nation's fighting forces.

### CAN HELP KEEP PRICES IN LINE

Union consumer committees provide one way unions can help Uncle Sam keep prices down. That's the idea in a statement on "Program for Establishing Union Consumer Committees" just issued by the Labor Office of the O.P.A. The statement has been issued to members of district labor advisory committees established within the last month to further co-operation between O.P.A. and organized labor.

"No man doth safely rule but he that hath learned gladly to obey."—*Thomas a Kempis*.

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## "Government by Law Is Passing Out of the Picture —Government by Men Is Taking Its Place"—Frey

Following is a summary of the address delivered by John P. Frey, president of the A.F.L. Metal Trades Department at the specially-called conference of Pacific Coast metal trades unions and other organized labor groups, held in Portland last week. The summary is furnished by the Pacific Coast Metal Trades press service:

Any employer who signs a union shop agreement does so at his own peril. No single contract in existence is valid unless the N.L.R.B. has passed upon it and any contract can be invalidated any time two or more workers in any establishment see fit to protest to the N.L.R.B. for an election.

Government by law is passing out of the picture. Government by men is taking its place. In the N.L.R.B. we have an example of men *not elected* by the people usurping the prerogatives of our traditional American democratic system of government.

### C.I.O. Pretense vs. Deeds

The time is past when the C.I.O. can make any pretense of "organizing the unorganized." By their oft-repeated deeds it becomes apparent that they are out to disorganize the organized. They are now attempting to take from the established unions the membership that has been built up throughout the years.

As far as the C.I.O. is concerned, we have proved that we can hold our own. But another powerful factor is arrayed against us. The C.I.O. has been encouraged to carry on its raids by the N.L.R.B. If it were not for the interference of this body the A.F.L. and C.I.O. might long ago have been able to compose their differences.

I am deliberately choosing my words when I charge that the N.L.R.B., by encouraging such union raiding, is doing more to sabotage war production than all the enemy saboteurs that may be operating within our borders.

In some instances the American Federation of Labor has had agreements with certain employers for more than a generation. Now, all that is necessary to disrupt this harmonious relationship is for two or more employees to petition to the N.L.R.B. in favor of the dual organization.

### "Big Steel" in the Woodpile

Johnny Green, of the C.I.O. shipbuilding outfit, has much influence in Washington, D. C. He has had the encouragement and support of eastern shipbuilding corporations that are controlled by eastern steel interests. Perhaps the results of this hook-up are evident in the C.I.O.'s raiding policies. Some of us remember that it was Bethlehem Steel that protested the union-shop clause in the Master Agreement.

To some of us also it is clear why both U. S. Steel and Bethlehem Steel favor the wage differential established against C.I.O. shipyard workers on the East Coast.

Back there only 15 per cent of C.I.O. working in

shipyards controlled by eastern steel interests enjoy standard rating as mechanics. Here on the Pacific Coast where the A.F.L. and local capital is dominant, 53 per cent of all union shipyard workers have that rating. Can the influence of U. S. Steel and Bethlehem Steel have anything to do with this unfortunate wage situation?

### The Hand of Bureaucracy

Is it not evident that something is at work not only in the shipyards of this country, but also back of some of those bureaucratic desks in Washington, D. C.?

This Johnny Green says the C.I.O. is not spreading propaganda, but he admitted before the Truman committee that the C.I.O. does have its men planted in every West Coast shipyard to advance the interests of that organization. That is the Communist strategy—two or three stooges planted in key positions to do their appointed tasks.

And yet Johnny Green declares: "This is no jurisdictional fight; it is simply a case of violation of basic law by the Kaiser Company."

### Union Agreements Menaced

It was Attorney Watts who made it clear that no agreement between organized labor and the employers can be considered valid: "No group shall be deprived of rights guaranteed them under the law." This can only mean that the N.L.R.B. intends to insist on changing the form and structure of established labor unions to suit its own whims and purposes.

Hundreds and thousands of union contracts all over the country will become invalid just as soon as the N.L.R.B. gets time to start working on them in this manner.

It is thus that the validity of each and every union shop in the country is being challenged. Our country is at war. As far as results on our war effort are concerned this attitude is very much akin to treason.

### "Fantastic Incapacity" of N.L.R.B.

This is proof enough of the fantastic incapacity of the N.L.R.B. to understand the industrial situation. Regardless of the needs of the war effort, neither labor nor employers can get together to work out mutual problems unless they work through the N.L.R.B.

The situation is becoming increasingly dangerous not only in Portland and other centers of war industries, but to the entire union movement in the U.S.A.

### "Straitjacket for Labor"

Those of you who threw your hats in the air when the Wagner Act gave the N.L.R.B. discretionary authority can now see how this policy has worked out in regard to our labor unions. It has been, and is being, written into the record.

It was very well to rejoice that such things as injunctions were things of the past. But it is quite clear that we have no reason to rejoice that the administration of the Wagner Act has become a straitjacket. To make matters worse, we have been informed by the N.L.R.B. that even an armistice between the A.F.L. and C.I.O. will not stop the bureaucrats from proceeding with their nation-wide campaign against us.

### West Coast Agreement a Model

The Master Agreement was drawn up and went into operation first right here on the West Coast. It became the standard and model for shipbuilding stabilization in all American shipyards.

The Metal Trades Department of the A.F.L. has much confidence in Pacific Coast metal tradesmen. We still have confidence that Pacific Coast metal tradesmen will follow through in vigorous defense of the conditions they have built up.

On my own responsibility I assert that the interests of government, management and labor make it mandatory to do away with the provisions of the Wagner Act for the duration of the war.

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# Statement by Metal Unions to Senate Committee

At a hearing held in San Francisco last week by a sub-committee of the U. S. Senate, presided over by Senator Downey of California, testimony was heard on various problems in this area that are brought about by the war, including housing, manpower, transportation and related matters.

Appearing before the Senate committee was a delegation representing the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council that included T. A. Reardon (chairman), Edward Rowan of the Metal Polishers, William Perry of the Shipwrights and Harvey Howard of the Oakland Boilermakers. In addition to remarks and testimony by its members, this committee presented a comprehensive statement to the Senators in outlining the views of the Metal Trades Council, of which the following is a summary:

The committee opened its statement by outlining the set-up and affiliation of the Metal Trades Council and pointing out it is the agency of the unions in all matters affecting the agreement with the shipyard managements, and then declared:

## Represent 250,000 Workers

"We are speaking today, therefore, in behalf of some 250,000 workers who produce from one-fifth to one-fourth of the total shipbuilding tonnage of the entire nation. These are the men and women whom you have been hearing about in and out of the sessions of your committee. These are the people who are directly affected by the deplorable conditions that have been so dramatically presented up to this time, largely by speakers representing governmental agencies and elected officials from the several communities so adversely affected. During the many months that these public, semi-public and governmental agencies have been struggling with some of the problems that are today the vital concern of this committee, the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council was pounding away at all of the agencies affected in an attempt to alleviate the conditions that are now being brought to light."

## Recognize Responsibility

It was then stated that labor is the chief instrument of production and that it recognizes its tremendous responsibility in that role, hence it also is concerned with all efforts intended to strengthen and sustain the men on the fighting front. The Council's statement then continues:

"On some of the more vital factors, a wealth of evidence has already been presented and we do not wish to indulge in repetition. We shall simply outline here those problems which, to us through experience, we deem the ones of most vital concern, namely: Transportation, Housing, Manpower and Absenteeism."

## Other Controlling Factors

"Considerable evidence has been supplied and much discussion indulged in on those factors. In addition, we wish to add other factors of which we, as workers, are deeply cognizant—some tangible, some intangible. They affect our morale and, as such, demand serious attention at all times. These may be outlined briefly as follows:

- "Food Rationing,
- "Improper supervision and poor work planning by management within the shipyards,
- "Eating facilities, or, to put it bluntly, the lack of eating facilities within the shipyards.

## Destructive Publicity

"Destructive and demoralizing publicity inspired by agencies and agents of employers.

- "Stupid personnel methods and worse practices.
- "Safety precautions.
- "Health and sanitary measures.
- "Hospitalization of workers in and out of the yards and the lack of care and attention in this field with respect to their families, and—strangely enough—Job Insecurity."

The statement next outlines some of the work which had been done by the Metal Trades Council

committee in relation to subjects which had been before the Senate committee's present hearing, referring especially to accomplishments in bettering transportation through use of ferryboats.

It was then outlined what is yet demanded by the Council in relation to train service via the bridge lines and street car service to South San Francisco. As the housing situation had previously been presented by other agencies the Council's committee contented itself with asking for immediate action on that pressing subject. The analysis of the manpower situation made by Regional Director William K. Hopkins also was deemed sufficient. The Council committee added, however, that repeated requests had been made to managements that supervisors should be delegated to skilled journeymen in the shipbuilding crafts, and "if labor is properly utilized we believe the manpower problem can, in a large measure, be overcome."

## Labor Turnover and Absenteeism

On the subject of "absenteeism," the Council committee quoted from a statement by Mr. Hopkins made to the Senate committee earlier in the week, as follows:

"Much of the excessive turnover and absenteeism stems from community problems which may seem remote but which are none the less real. Until these underlying causes can be remedied, no complete solution can be had. It is a known fact that much turnover and absenteeism (although it has never been successfully measured in quantitative terms) arises out of wage differentials, housing and transportation shortages, excessive commuting times, ill health and accidents, inadequate supervision or work scheduling, lack of adjustment to a job, inadequate shopping and child care facilities, food shortages, and many other similar factors. Only by the removal of these causes can a complete solution be found."

"We applaud this statement," the committee declared, "as one of the most incisive and discerning statements in relation to this problem. Our workers have been struggling with all of these factors and more, and in spite of them have achieved the records that have heartened every responsible agency and the people of our nation as a whole."

## Wage Freezing Order

Next taking up the recent presidential order in reference to wages, the Council's statement said:

"On the latest development in relation to manpower, the President's freezing edict, we can only say at this time that we view it with great alarm. We believe that a voluntary approach is the safest and the most beneficial solution to this problem. We believe that Government by directives and edicts must eventually drag us down the road to totalitarianism. We do not want to imitate the conditions that exist in the Hitler-dominated countries of Europe or that affect the millions in Asia now under the heels of the Japanese despots. We believe that our Congress must at all times be consulted if our democracy is to be sustained. There is an old adage that holds: 'Many minds are better than one.' We hold firmly to the traditional American belief that legislation emanating or validated by our Congress is still the surest protection to the continuation of our American democracy. While we are fighting for the Four Freedoms, while we are fighting to the end that the Four

Freedoms must be extended to all the peoples of the world, we pray God that our American workers and our people generally shall not be reduced to the status of coolie labor, who must exist on a diet of polished rice and dried fish, nor do we want to see our people compelled by conditions to wear wooden shoes and ersatz clothing, as the millions must do now under the heels of the totalitarian dictators, Hitler and Mussolini.

## Ask Labor Representation

"According to last-minute advices received from Washington by officers of the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, President Roosevelt has just issued an executive order creating a special committee to deal with the problems your committee is now investigating. We are informed that this committee will have vast powers. Its primary purpose, we understand, will be to co-ordinate the work of all agencies now struggling to alleviate the deplorable conditions existing here. It is designed to correct conflicting and overlapping authority. We are eagerly awaiting a complete outline of its duties, responsibilities and the extent of its policies. In this connection, may we ask your Honorable Committee to see to it that labor is properly and adequately represented in this agency. Labor is completely aware of the far-reaching extent of the problems with which you are now dealing and can and will enter wholeheartedly in their solution."

## Pledge Co-operation

The Council's statement concluded with a complimentary expression to the Senate committee and its aides for the thorough manner in which they had approached the situation confronting the San Francisco area, adding that the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council is ready and willing at all times to co-operate in any requests made to the end that the problems may be met and solved "and to the further end that the safety of our nation may be guaranteed and our democracy and liberties maintained."

## NAZI DEMAND ON YOUTH

Nazi occupation authorities in the Baltic countries have ordered 15-year-old boys to "stand by" for calls to duty under the forced labor mobilization program, according to a dispatch in a Swedish newspaper.

## "MEN OF THE MERCHANT MARINE"

Every Saturday, from 7:15 to 7:30 p. m., KGO and the Blue Network will present a program entitled "Men of the Merchant Marine." Each story will salute one of our merchant seamen who has won recognition for his valiant work under fire. Many of these men have been on ships that were torpedoed, bombed, strafed or sunk. Some of them have been afloat for days in open lifeboats. All of them are noted for extraordinary heroism.



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## Bad News, Says Mary, for Women Clothes Hoarders

By MARY MOORE, Women's Editor,  
International Labor News Service

Here's bad news for the clothes hoarders who believed clothes would be rationed even in view of the Government's denials. The fashion designers are already at work on 1943 fall collections, and they predict they'll make the hoarders' clothes look just exactly what they are—outdated!

Officials of the New York Dress Institute point out that changing styles, possible even under the limitations of W.P.B.'s clothes conservation order, are the industry's protection against a recurrence of panic buying waves. They also point out that last fall's clothes made under the L-85 material conservation order, already look outmoded when compared to this spring's styles, which are slimmer and more subtly draped. Jackets are shorter and trouser pleated skirts substitute for last fall's modified dirndl.

Short sleeves have become even shorter and the clothes have a new look without being skimpy. All-year wardrobes are being designed with "pick-ups" to keep the wardrobe to date without waste.

The W.P.B. has also issued an order placing broad restrictions on the manufacture of men's, women's and children's hosiery. The new order is expected to make rayon stockings wear longer by requiring that they be reinforced in heel, toe and top. Lace bands and fancy designs are barred as well as 50-denier rayon, the sheerest, but also the poorest type of rayon. Only seven basic colors will be allowed each six months.

\* \* \*

Understanding the fundamental psychology of women at war, wartime styles are aiding and abetting the all-out feminine war effort, for work or off work. For war time evenings the designers offer the short dinner dress in black or gray with a sheer yoke or lace trimmings or, if you prefer, the dinner pajama or peasant dress in Latin-American style. Slim black gaucho trousers topped with a ruffled blouse in white, rose, blue or gold are the offerings of another designer.

\* \* \*

Police Departments of four states appointed women recently to replace officers entering the armed services or war industries. Several cities already have taken this step. The Virginia Department of State Police has just finished training 26 women as examiners and they now are giving drivers' license examinations. Use of the women, called WASPS (Women's Auxiliary State Police), enabled the promotion of male examiners to the grade of trooper.

In Connecticut and Rhode Island women are appointed policewomen by competing in a state merit system examination. These women will be trained at the New York City police academy. Duties of the state policewomen include investigation of crimes and complaints involving women and minors, investigation of public places and recreation facilities to protect morals of women and children, supervising parolees, and taking custody of delinquent or neglected children.

Minnesota's highway department has a woman dispatcher for the first time, replacing the male dispatcher who entered a war industry.

## Mine Workers' Dispute

News reports with reference to the wage dispute of the coal miners in the Eastern States yesterday (Thursday) morning painted a serious picture, and there were indications that the anti-labor propagandists were going to be badly disappointed if a strike did not occur. This latter group was all set to train their "big guns" against the entire labor movement for the act (if a strike occurred) of one organization. It would be the opportunity they have been seeking, but which has not been afforded them by the great majority of the union workers who have faithfully observed the "no strike" pledge because of war conditions. Incidentally, the miners' organization was never a party to that pledge—though they are not thereby relieved of obligation to the nation in its present emergency.

The dispute had been certified to the War Labor Board by the Secretary of Labor, and a panel had been set up by the board to hear the case on its merits. The miners had refused to recognize the board or to make arrangements to appear before the panel. Following that action the W.L.B. referred the case to President Roosevelt.

John B. Lewis, miner president, had called upon the Secretary of Labor to refer the case back to negotiation between the miners and the coal mine operators. In a caustic reply Wednesday, the Secretary declined to accede to the miner official's request, and declared confidence in the War Labor Board as the proper agency for handling the case. The President was yet to take action on the subject after its reference to his authority by the W.L.B.

No one will contend that the miners should be given special privilege to "pass up" the regularly established governmental agency for the handling of labor disputes during the war emergency. Should they declare a strike, they will be "on their own" and without the sympathy of labor groups that under normal conditions would be with them. Members of the United Mine Workers owe it to themselves, to the nation and to the labor movement to, at this time, accept the established methods of settling the dispute. They are neither supermen nor superunion members.

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## Convention of I.L.A. Will Meet in Tacoma, Monday

Delegates from Pacific Coast and Alaska ports will meet in Tacoma next Monday and Tuesday for the Pacific Coast district convention of the International Longshoremen's Association (A.F.L.). Represented will be the ports of Port Angeles, Anacortes, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Pedro, and (in Alaska) Skagway, Sitka, Kodiak, Wrangell and Petersburg. Joseph P. Ryan, international president, will attend the convention, and was scheduled to arrive in Tacoma yesterday (Thursday). Fraternal representatives from the S.I.U. and S.U.P. will also be present. Convention sessions will be held in the Winthrop hotel.

Although a minority on the Pacific Coast, the I.L.A. points to its existing agreements as concrete evidence that improvements over the conditions under which C.I.O. longshoremen work can be secured. Among the differentials in that respect in favor of the I.L.A. are: 10 cents an hour more for hatch tenders, 55 cents an hour more for overtime on explosives, 10 cents an hour more for working a certain class of ore, 55 cents an hour more for overtime on bulk sulphur, and a definite meal hour for small ports instead of a two-hour spread. In addition to these superior wages and working conditions, the I.L.A. has followed a policy of direct negotiation with the employers, avoiding the involved arbitration commitments of the I.L.W.U. (C.I.O.).

### SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Every report card in the elementary schools of California shall be uniform and have spaces for percentage grades in reading, writing, arithmetic, penmanship and United States history—at the least—under terms of a bill passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly this week.

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## "We Don't Patronize" List

The concerns listed below are on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of labor unions and sympathizers are requested to note this list carefully from week to week:

Adam Hat Stores, Inc., 119 Kearny.  
Advance Pattern Company, 552 Mission.  
American Distributing Company.  
Austin Studio, 833 Market.  
Avenue Hotel, 419 Golden Gate.  
Becker Distributing Company.  
Bruener, John, Company.  
B & G Sandwich Shops.  
California Watch Case Company.  
Chan Quong, photo engraver, 680 Clay.  
Curtis Publishing Co. (Philadelphia), publishers of *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Country Gentleman*.  
Desenfant, A., & Co., manufacturing jewelers, 150 Post.  
Doran Hotels (include St. Regis, 85 Fourth St.; Mint, 141 Fifth St.; Hale, 939 Mission St.; Land, 936 Mission St.; Hillsdale, 51 Sixth St.; Grand Central, 1412 Market St., and the Ford Apartments, 957 Mission St.).  
Drake Cleaners and Dyers.  
Forderer Cornice Works, 269 Potrero.  
Gantner & Mattern, 1453 Mission.  
Gates Rubber Company, 2700 Sixteenth Street.  
General Distillers, Ltd., 136 Front St.  
Goldstone Bros., manufacturers of overalls and workmen's clothing.  
Lucerne Apartments, 766 Sutter.  
Mirsky, B., & Son, wholesale cigars and tobaccos, 468 Third St.  
M. R. C. Roller Bearing Company, 550 Polk.  
National Beauty Salon, 207 Powell.  
Navaleet Seed Company, 423 Market.  
O'Keefe-Merritt Stove Co. Products, Los Angeles.

Pacific Label Company, 1150 Folsom.  
Purity Springs Water Company, 2050 Kearny.  
Remington-Rand, Inc., 509 Market.  
Romaine Photo Studio, 220 Jones.  
Royal Typewriter Company, 153 Kearny.  
Sealey Mattress Company, 6699 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.  
Sherwin-Williams Paint Company.  
Sloane, W. & J.  
Smith, L. C., Typewriter Company, 545 Market.  
Speed-E Menu Service, 693 Mission.  
Standard Oil Company.  
Stanford University Hospital, Clay and Webster.  
Sutro Baths and Skating Rink.  
Swift & Co.  
Time and Life (magazines), products of the unfair Donnelley firm (Chicago)  
Underwood Typewriter Company, 531 Market.  
Val Vita Food Products, Inc., Fullerton, Calif.  
Wooldridge Tractor Equipment Company, Sunnyvale, California.  
All non-union independent taxicabs.  
Barber Shops that do not display the shop card of the Journeymen Barbers' Union are unfair.  
Beauty Shops that do not display the shop card of the Hairdressers and Cosmetologists' Department of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America are unfair.  
Cleaning establishments that do not display the shop card of Retail Cleaners' Union No. 93 are unfair.  
Locksmith Shops which do not display the union shop card of Federated Locksmiths No. 1331 are unfair.

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